

Quick Summary of Kings Mountain NMP GRI meeting September 19, 2000

Summary

A geologic resources inventory workshop was held for Kings Mountain NMP (KIMO) on September 19, 2000 to view and discuss the park's geologic resources, to address the status of geologic mapping for compiling both paper and digital maps, and to assess resource management issues and needs. Cooperators from the NPS Geologic Resources Division (GRD), NPS Kings Mountain NMP and United States Geologic Survey (GS), South Carolina GS, and North Carolina GS staff were present for the workshop.

This involved a half-day field trip to view the geology of the Kings Mountain NMP area led by Wright Horton (USGS) and another half-day scoping session to present overviews of the NPS Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program, the Geologic Resources Division, and the on going Geologic Resources Inventory (GRI). Round table discussions involving geologic issues for Kings Mountain NMP included interpretation, paleontologic resources (or lack thereof), and the status of geologic mapping efforts, sources of available data, geologic hazards, and action items generated from this meeting.

Because of the potential for future expansion and the presence of other state land managing agencies as adjacent neighbors, the general consensus of KIMO staff was that they would like to have geologic maps completed for the following four quadrangles of interest to KIMO: Grover, Kings Mountain, Kings Creek, and Filbert.

Brief summaries follow.

Attendees:

Erin Broadbent (KIMO Superintendent)
Tim Connors (Geologic Resources Division-GRI)
Chris Revels (KIMO, Chief Ranger)
Wright Horton (USGS, Geologist)
Scott Howard (SCGS, Geologist)
Bill Clendenin (SCGS, State Geologist)
Carl Merschat (NCGS, Geologist)
Kenny Bochniak (KIMO, exotic species specialist)
Bert Dunkerly (KIMO, Interpretation)

Items of discussion included the following:

Geologic Mapping:

Wright Horton (USGS) has done extensive 1:24,000 mapping (both as dissertation and other unpublished work not quite ready for prime-time) of two of the four quadrangles of interest to KIMO (the Grover and Kings Mountain quadrangles) and reconnaissance mapping of the [third] Filbert quadrangle. Additionally, he says that the [fourth] Kings Creek quadrangle has been reconnaissance mapped by MS students from universities,

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but their work is preliminary at best. Additionally, the USGS has published the Charlotte 1x2 degree sheet (scale 1:250,000 scale; USGS Map I-1251-E) as a small-scale map for the area in general, and USGS Professional Paper 1462 on the "Mineral Resources of the Charlotte 1x2 degree Quadrangle, NC and SC", as well as a few other miscellaneous topical publications related to Kings Mountain.

Digital Geologic Map coverage:

Wright believes his Grover and Kings Mountain quadrangles are acceptable for digitization and even publishing as GQ maps, given some more of his time to refine map unit descriptions and general "house-cleaning" on these quadrangles. He would like to see these maps digitized (with his oversight and guidance), assuming USGS management can be convinced that it is a good use of his time to work on this project. If necessary, the NPS staff, SCGS and NCGS are willing to write letters to request Wright's assistance in this process. At present, it is believed that GRI funds could be used to fund this digitization by the USGS staff in Reston, VA.

As for the other two southern quadrangles (Kings Creek and Filbert), given the amount of clean-up necessary to make them useful, it was suggested to have the SCGS finish production on these quadrangles (both mapping and digitization), and to pursue GRI funding of this venture in conjunction with the SCGS. Details will need to be worked out in the upcoming months. To cut costs, it was suggested to pursue KIMO park housing for whoever may end up mapping the quadrangles.

Other desired GIS data:

Soils maps are also of interest to KIMO staff. Tim Connors will check with Pete Biggam (NPS-Soil Scientist) on the status of soils mapping for the numerous counties in the area (Cherokee, York, Cleveland, and Gaston Counties); will require more follow-up.

Chris Revels is interested in producing a wetlands map with WRD for KIMO; needs follow-up.

Interpretation:

Chris would like to see an interpretive exhibit produced that discusses the various rock types present in the park, their origins, and their significance to the physiography of KIMO and the Piedmont in general. Additionally, because of the rich mining history of the region, and specific mine features in KIMO, a display featuring the history of mining would also be desired at the Visitor Center. Both of these would contribute to both the cultural and natural history of KIMO.

The number of rock types (ashes, limestones, conglomerates) in such small area tell a good story about the geology and tectonics and should be somehow translated to the general public in terms they can understand.

Miscellaneous:

SCGS is interested in seeing about the availability of park housing while mapping the area to cut down on travel time and such; needs follow-up.